

FAITH @ HOME

Week of June 7, 2020

First Sunday after Pentecost (Trinity Sunday)

ADULT AND SMALL CHILD

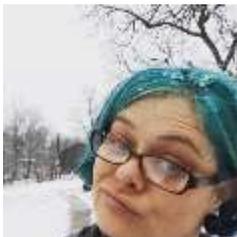
READ: Genesis 1:1-2:4a

REFLECT: This very first story from the Bible is pretty fantastic. It all starts in the dark. Well, really it starts with God. Before there was anything else, there was God. And later on in the Bible, our friend John tells us that God is Love. So, before any of the things in the world that you see, before the stars and the moon and the Grand Canyon and Disney World, God was Love.

God's love was so big, so full. And God made us to love. God made everything out of nothing but God's love for us. That's pretty great. I can't even make cereal out of love—I have to have some milk and a bowl and some cereal. But God can—and God did. And in all that time, in all of those things that God ever made, or will make, or is making right now, God decided you needed to be in the world. God looked at the world and thought: *I'm going to put some of my love right here.* You are part of this very first story. You are part of the world that God made—part of this amazing story of love that God has been telling for so long. And you are very good.

RESPOND: Take a walk with your little one today. Look at all the good things around you. Find a rock or a leaf or maybe a feather to share with friends or other folks back home. Keep track of what you both find and recall these things during your evening prayers.

ABOUT OUR CONTRIBUTOR: RACHEL JONES



Rachel Jones is the associate editor for Forward Movement. She and her husband live on a farm with a dog, too many cats, several rabbits, and a flock of very opinionated chickens.

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ADULT AND ELEMENTARY

READ: Matthew 28:16-20

REFLECT: I love to play sports. I love to feel the wind rushing past me as I run and I even like to feel the sweat drip down my face. In college, I played lacrosse. During my rookie year, I was responsible for our equipment. This equipment included everything we needed to play – lacrosse sticks, lacrosse balls, jerseys, extra mouth guards, and a first aid kit. Without the equipment, the lacrosse team would not be able to play our game safely.

I think of the Holy Trinity as the equipment managers for the team that we are all a part of – the Body of Christ. The Holy Trinity gives us everything we need to play the game of life.

RESPOND: Make a list of the items you need for school each day. If you do not attend school yet, think of the things you do in the morning. Some of the items that you might need for school are: a backpack, notebook, pencils, or your lunch. In the morning, most of us brush our teeth, make our beds, or help with breakfast. While you are getting equipped each morning, think of the Holy Trinity.

ABOUT OUR CONTRIBUTOR: IMANI DRISKELL



Imani Driskell is the Director of Children's, Youth, and Family Ministries at St. Michael's-in-the-Hills Episcopal Church in Toledo, Ohio. Imani was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York and is a bagel and pizza enthusiast. She enjoys learning, teaching and speaking about Faith Formation. Her favorite novel is *The Living is Easy* by Dorothy West.

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First Sunday after Pentecost (Trinity Sunday)

ADULT AND YOUTH

READ: Matthew 28:16-20

REFLECT: The Trinity is one of the incredible mysteries of our faith. There is no way to fully understand it. God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are a big part of our sacraments, our worship services, and our prayers. Jesus charges the disciples to baptize in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This goes back to Jesus' baptism, where we have the Holy Spirit come down like a dove, and God's voice from heaven. It also is a reminder that our call as Christians is rooted in the many attributes of the Trinity. We are called to be persistent and steadfast in our faith as God was with the Israelites and the world. We are called to radically love others as Jesus did. We are called to empower and be present with others as the Holy Spirit is. While trying to understand how God is a Trinity, but also God, can start to make your head hurt, what is more important is experiencing and knowing that the Trinity is mysterious and wonderful, and that we need only read the stories of the Bible to understand all of the wonderful ways God is with and among us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

RESPOND: Draw three circles that connect in the middle and the sides overlap, like a Venn diagram, but with a third circle. Where all three overlap, write "Trinity." In each circle, write where you see God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit in your life, in the Bible, or in Church.

ABOUT OUR CONTRIBUTOR: MAGGIE PAUL



Maggie Paul is the Assistant Director for Youth and Family Ministry at Christ Episcopal Church in Charlotte, NC where she focuses on Middle School and relational ministry as well as curriculum. She previously served at the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta, GA where she developed and implemented a comprehensive Confirmation curriculum. She is very excited to bring aspects of this curriculum to her new parish. As an undergraduate with a passion for youth ministry, she served as a summer camp counselor and Episcopal student center "church mouse," and she continues to use her gifts and talents as a singer and musician to nurture her own journey and inspire others on theirs.

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ADULT AND ADULT

READ: Genesis 1:1-2:4a

REFLECT: As we ponder the mystery of the Holy Trinity, we read the opening creation narrative from Genesis. In it, God daily creates all that exists in the world, finally concluding with humanity, which, unlike everything else that is created, is made in God's image.

Theologians have argued throughout the centuries about exactly what it means that humans are made in the image of God, but they all agree that it is significant. We all share some aspect of the Divine One who made us. We are all sacred because of the sacredness shared to us in our creation.

St. Irenaeus said, "The Glory of God is the human person fully alive." As we celebrate the Holy Trinity, let us remember that God has created us all with sacred worth, and we bring God glory when we are fully alive – moments that can be "mountain-top experiences" or regular moments in our daily lives. It may sound simple, but to be fully alive is to participate in the Divine life of the Trinity.

RESPOND: When do you feel "fully alive?" Take some time this week, even just a few minutes, to do those things that make you "live fully," and know that you are giving God glory in doing so.

ABOUT OUR CONTRIBUTOR: CLAYTON HARRINGTON



Clayton Harrington is the Episcopal Campus Missioner at the University of Georgia. He is also the Rector's Associate for Youth and Young Adult Ministries at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Athens, Georgia. In these roles, Clayton is passionate about the potential of Christian community, worship, and service to empower youth and young adults to grow into the people that God has made them to be. Clayton is a transitional deacon and will be ordained a priest in June 2020 in the Diocese of Atlanta.

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